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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

Executive Registry

77-1953/1

National Intelligence Officers

SP - 169/77
5 August 1977

State

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
FROM: Deputy to the DCI for National Intelligence
SUBJECT: Response to Secretary Vance's Comments Regarding
Content of NIE 11-3/8-77
REFERENCE: DCI Memorandum dated 30 July 1977

1. Action Requested: None; for your information only. Below is a discussion of the subjects Secretary Vance suggested be explored in this year's NIE 11-3/8.

2. Background:

a. In response to your invitation to comment on the content of this year's National Intelligence Estimate 11-3/8 entitled, "Soviet Forces for Strategic Nuclear Conflict Through the Late 1980s," Secretary Vance said he would like to see assessments of the Soviet IRBM/MRBM program and the PRC's ICBM and IRBM programs.

b. In contrast to last year's NIE 11-3/8, this year's version will discuss, in addition to Soviet strategic forces for intercontinental attack, Soviet strategic forces for peripheral attack. This will include an assessment of the operational capabilities of Soviet IRBMs and MRBMs. A separate Interagency Intelligence Memorandum is also being produced on this subject.

c. Since NIE 11-3/8 focuses on Soviet strategic nuclear forces, PRC forces are discussed only insofar as they affect Soviet threat perceptions, force structure and posture. Chinese strategic forces are discussed in a separate NIE series: NIE 13, "PRC Defense Policy and Armed Forces;" and NIE 13-8, "China's Strategic Attack Programs."

3. Recommendation: That you use the above as the basis for an oral response to Secretary Vance.

[Redacted Signature Box]

Robert R. Bowie

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